

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the subject application. The Office Action of June 9, 2003 has been received and contents carefully reviewed. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matters in claims 10, 11, 26, 27, 29, 44, 45, and 61-66 and allowance of claims 20, 28 and 46-57.

Applicants also wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representatives during the personal interview on December 5, 2003

Applicants have amended claims 10, 11, 26, 27, 29, 44, 45, and 61-66 to incorporate the allowable subject matter as indicated by the Examiner in proper form. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 10-11, 20, 24, 26-29, 44-57 and 61-66 are in condition for immediate allowance. The remaining claims have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.


Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner deems that a telephone conference would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number (202) 496 - 7500. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the

filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Dated: December 8, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

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